

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 17, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 5 being the only independent claims. Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended. Claims 9 and 10 are added. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed April 17, 2003, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over EP 0 597 638 (Beddoes).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a method and system for changing a subscriber profile based on the identity of a base station serving the subscriber terminal. As is known in the prior art, base stations transmit information signals such as, for example, CGI (cell global identity) information in the BCCH (Broadcast Control Channel) in a mobile communication network which include a cell identifier of the cell (see page 2, line 21 - page 3, line 3). As is also known in the art, the cell identifier (CI) is a 16-bit identifier used in conjunction with a location area identifier to uniquely identify a base station (see attached definitions of CGI and CI). However, network reconfigurations commonly require changes in cell identifiers (see page 3, lines 2-3). If the cell identifier of the home cell of a mobile terminal changes due to a network reconfiguration, the mobile network will not recognize the new cell identifier. The present invention overcomes this problem by assigning a permanent base station identity designation that is different from and independent of a cell identifier and that does not change in conjunction with network reconfigurations (page 5, lines 6-7). This allows a mobile

terminal to identify or recognize a particular base station in whose area the mobile terminal is currently located on the basis of the permanent identity designation.

Beddoes fails to teach or suggest transmission of a permanent base station identifier that is independent of network reconfigurations and further fails to teach or suggest that the terminal equipment changes a subscriber profile based on the cell identifier. Beddoes merely discloses that each base station emits in a normal way a broadcast signal on a predetermined control channel (see col. 1, lines 47-48). This signal allows the mobile terminal to determine the cell in which it is located. Those skilled in the art recognize that the normal way to identify a base station is by the cell global identifier, which includes a location area and a cell identifier as discussed above. However, the present invention teaches that the cell identifier may change during a network reconfiguration such as a BSC switch-over. Accordingly, if the cell identifier changes, the mobile terminal cannot determine, from the cell identifier alone, the location of the cell. Since Beddoes discloses only that a base station emits a broadcast signal in a normal way and since the normal broadcast signal is known to be dependent on network configuration changes, that cited reference lacks any teaching or suggestion for assigning a permanent base station identity designation which is independent of network configuration changes, as is expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 5. It is accordingly submitted that independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable over Beddoes.

The Examiner states that Beddoes discloses, at col. 2, lines 39-56, that the identifier of the base station may be a town, area code, post office, or other form. Applicants, however, respectfully submit that this portion of Beddoes simply teaches that the mobile terminal receives a cell identifying signal "by the control channel referred to above" (col. 2, lines 39-44). As discussed above and demonstrated by the attached definitions, those skilled in the art understand that the cell identifying signal is part of a cell global identifier which is known to be dependent on network

configuration changes. Beddoes further states at col. 2, lines 44-46, that the mobile terminal provides to the subscriber an identification signal corresponding to the cell identifying signal. Beddoes discloses that the identification signal provided by the mobile terminal, and not the cell identifying signal emitted by the base station, is in the form of a town, city, area code, post office, or other area. Furthermore, since this portion of Beddoes explicitly references the control channel which provides a cell identifying signal "in a normal way" and which is conventionally dependent on network configuration changes, Beddoes fails to teach or suggest a permanent base station identity independent of mobile communication network configuration changes, as is expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 5.

Beddoes further fails to teach or disclose that the mobile terminal changes the subscriber profile based on the base station identity. In Beddoes, the mobile terminal displays the city, area code, or post office associated with the base station to the user (col. 2, lines 44-46). A user may decide to make or so not make calls based on tariffs associated with the area in which the user is currently located (see col. 45-49). Furthermore, Beddoes discloses at col. 3, lines 36-45 that the system can alter the tariff charges, i.e., subscriber profile, based on whether the channels are mostly occupied. However, Beddoes fails to disclose that the mobile terminal alters the tariff charges. The Examiner takes official notice that a subscriber profile may be changed based on the identity of the base station. Independent claim 1 has been amended to now recite that the mobile terminal itself changes the subscriber profile based on the base station identity. It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in the art that it is the mobile terminal itself that changes a subscriber profile based on the cell identity, as now recited in independent claims 1 and 5.

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable over Beddoes.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 5, are allowable for at least the same reasons as are independent claims 1 and 5.

Dependent claims 4 and 8 furthermore recite that the network is a GSM network and have now been amended to recite that the permanent base station identity is separate from a cell identity of a global cell identifier of the base station. Since the cell identity is the "normal" way of identifying a cell in a GSM network and since Beddoes teaches that the cell is identified in a "normal" way, Beddoes fails to teach or suggest a permanent base station identity that is separate from a cell identity of a global cell identifier, as recited in these claims. Accordingly, independent claims 4 and 8 are deemed to be allowable for these additional reasons as well.

Newly-added dependent claims 9 and 10 each recite that the base station has a cell global identifier and that the permanent base station identity designation is in addition to the cell global identifier. Beddoes fails to teach or suggest that the base station sends a base station identity designation in addition to the normal cell identifier. Accordingly, independent claims 9 and 10 are also believed to be allowable for these additional reasons.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any such fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

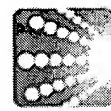
Respectfully submitted,

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CGI - Cell Global Identity

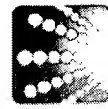
The Cell Global Identity is the concatenation of the LAI (Location Area Identity) and the CI (Cell Identity) and uniquely identifies a given cell.

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GSM



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CI - Cell Identity

The cell identity is a 16bit identifier in GSM and UMTS . When combined with the LAI (Location Area Identity) or RAI (Routing Area Identity) the result is termed the CGI (Cell Global Identity).

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